

STUDENTS**Redistricting**

Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Stafford County School Board shall designate attendance areas.

A. Redistricting Considerations

When the redistricting of students is necessary the primary considerations that may govern the establishment of a school attendance area shall include the following:

1. Location: Assign students to the school closest to their home whereby minimizing transportation distances and avoiding major traffic thoroughfares and natural barriers whenever possible. Such redistricting assignments will take into account the safety of affected students including both those who may walk and those who are transported by bus.
2. Balance: Achieve a balance in the size of student populations (looking forward 4-6 yrs where possible) within each school relative to the student capacities of individual facilities.
3. Minimum Disruption: Move the fewest students possible while attempting to avoid multiple moves of the same students or neighborhoods over time.
4. Subdivision Integrity: Keep subdivisions (or naturally/traditionally grouped areas) in the same school whenever possible.
5. Feeder Patterns: Keep groups of students together from elementary to middle to high school whenever possible. Although it is the intent of the board to establish attendance areas that will permit the student to attend the school nearest his or her home, situations may arise that will require the transportation of the student to a school other than the one he or she would normally be expected to attend. Overcrowded conditions in a school, the opening of a new school or the requirements of State or federal regulations may mean changing attendance areas or making exceptions to the existing attendance areas.

STUDENTS**Redistricting****B. Redistricting Process**

The following process shall be executed when redistricting is required in a manner that best addresses the needs of affected students. While the process is sequential, some activities will occur concurrently.

Enrollment and Capacity Analysis --- 4-6 Months:

Construction and Planning Department completes five-year enrollment projection, while assessing current and projected individual school capacities. Analysis and forecasting is employed to determine those facilities projected to be over, or under, capacity. When redistricting of students is necessary the superintendent is provided with option(s) worthy of further consideration. When the redistricting of students is necessary the superintendent will establish a committee to consider redistricting options. A period of review commences. In conjunction with committee establishment the School Board shall provide the Redistricting Committee with a charge. The charge will outline goals and objectives the School Board wishes to accomplish with the redistricting process. The charge shall also serve as a guide for the committee as they arrive at proposed redistricting recommendations.

Redistricting Committee Review and Input --- 1-2 Months:

Will respond to staff recommendations with review, analysis and suggestions provided to enhance the proposed redistricting options. Committee deliberations will conclude with a determination of a preferred option(s) if possible. Preferred option(s) are then shared with the superintendent. While all Redistricting Committee meetings are open to the public they will not be publicized through mass media.

Superintendent's Recommendations: Superintendent presents proposed redistricting options, including but not limited to those recommended by the Redistricting Committee, to the School Board for consideration. Option(s) are then shared with the public through established public hearings.

School Board Public Hearings --- 2 Months: School Board holds public hearings on proposed redistricting option(s) which reflect the Redistricting Committee's input. The

STUDENTS**Redistricting**

School Board will receive input and may adjust proposed redistricting option(s).

School Board Adoption --- 1 Month: School Board adopts redistricting plan.

Data Update and Dispersion --- 2-3 Months: Adopted redistricting changes are updated within various data systems in the division and corresponding reporting and student information is appropriately dispersed.

C. Redistricting Committee

The superintendent shall appoint a committee to assist in the redistricting process. The committee membership will include but is not limited to:

1. Parent representatives appointed by the PTO/PTA from impacted attendance zones
2. A representative from the Stafford County Public Schools Transportation Department.
3. A representative from the Stafford County Public Schools Instruction Department.
4. School Board Staff
5. Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee, or a committee designee
6. Teacher(s) representative(s), elected by teaching staff at each affected school, along with an alternate.
7. Student(s) (high school when high zones are adjusted and an 8th grader when middle zones are adjusted.) Student representatives, with an alternate, are to be elected by the student government at each affected school. Student representatives may not be related to parent representatives.

STUDENTS**Redistricting****Principal Participation**

Principals from each affected school shall be included in the process as non-voting members of a subcommittee. The subcommittee may meet separately from the assigned Redistricting Committee to review the School Board's committee charge and proposals put forth by the Redistricting Committee. Principals may also be asked to attend Redistricting Committee meetings in an advisory/informative role per the committee's request.

Staff will initially provide the committee with redistricting options for consideration. Following committee review preferred option(s) will be forwarded to the Superintendent.

D. Support for Recommendations

Recommendations of the staff and superintendent will be supported with current and projected enrollment data, facility capacity analysis, school transportation travel time data, Capital Improvements Program (CIP) data, local subdivision and housing data, DOE Triennial Census Data, and any other sources deemed appropriate by the School Board, Superintendent or staff.

Legal Reference: Through June 30, 2005

Code of Va., § 22.1-79. Powers and duties. -"A school board shall:...4. Provide for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;

.

8. Obtain public comment through a public hearing not less than ten days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing (i) for the consolidation of schools; (ii) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all instructional services for any public school classroom or all noninstructional services in the

STUDENTS**Redistricting**

school division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization; or (iii) in school divisions having 15,000 pupils or more in average daily membership, for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of 15 percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the meeting of the school board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken. If a public hearing has been held prior to the effective date of this provision on a proposed consolidation, redistricting or pupil assignment plan which is to be implemented after the effective date of this provision, an additional public hearing shall not be required.

Adopted by the School Board: March 24, 1987

Amended by the School Board: February 24, 2004

Amended by the School Board: March 8, 2005

Board Review: March 8, 2005

Staff Review: August 1, 2005

Responsible Department: Planning & Construction